

## Referral Information

### How can my family enroll in the Guide-By-Your-Side Program?

Enrolling in the Guide-By-Your-Side Program is easy, confidential and free of charge.

- Inform your child's audiologist or doctor that you are interested in meeting a Parent Guide.
- Sign the consent form, so that your provider may share information related to your child's hearing loss with the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.
- Your provider will make a referral to the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.
- A Parent Guide will try to contact you within 24 hours of receiving the referral and will work to meet with you within the next 2 weeks.
- Your Parent Guide will visit with your family, in your home, at times that work for you.
- If you have questions or concerns please call the Guide-By-Your-Side Program at (608) 266-7032

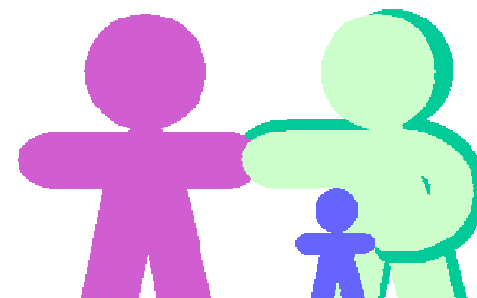


The Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESPDHH) - Outreach supports children who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind by providing a broad array of services to families and educational programs. Services are provided at no cost and are based on the needs of each individual child.



WESPDHH is a program of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Learning Support: Equity and Advocacy.

*A program for families*



**Guide-By-Your-Side**

*of a young child who is deaf or hard of hearing*

Supported by:  
WESP-DHH Outreach  
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608-266-7032 v/tty  
608-267-3746 fax  
[gbys@wesp-dhh.wi.gov](mailto:gbys@wesp-dhh.wi.gov)

## What is the Guide-By-Your-Side Program?

*The Guide-By-Your-Side Program is free of charge and strives to serve **every eligible** family in Wisconsin. This program can help you meet another parent who also has a deaf or hard of hearing child. This Parent Guide will be able to:*

- answer questions for you
- share what it is like to parent a child who is deaf or hard of hearing
- talk about the many different ways you might communicate with your child
- connect you with other other people and resources that might be able to help you like:
  - your county Birth to 3 Program
  - local schools
  - parent groups

## Who are the Parent Guides?

*Parent Guides...*

- *have children of various ages who are deaf or hard of hearing*
- *have been trained to provide support and information*
- *will keep all information about your child and family private*
- *can work with you no matter where you live in Wisconsin*

*Parent Guides speak your language:*

- *English*
- *American Sign Language (ASL)*
- *Spanish / Español*

*How does the Guide-By-Your-Side Program Work?*

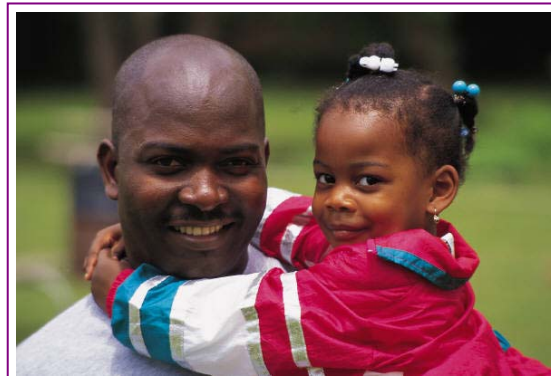
- *A local Parent Guide will call you*
- *Your Parent Guide will visit with your family 3 times...*
  - *In your home or another place of your choice*
  - *At a time that works for you*
  - *For up to 2 hours each visit*

## Quotes from Parents

*“When I found out about my child’s hearing loss there was a flood of overwhelming emotions. There was so much to feel, so much to do, I didn’t know where to start. Having another parent to guide me through this transitional period would have been invaluable.”*

*“No one understands what it is like to have a deaf child, that feeling of something lost, unless you have a deaf child yourself.”*

*“I remember driving home from the hospital feeling lost with no idea where to turn or what to do next”.*



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